

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VIENNA 02247 141647Z

51

ACTION USSS-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 /027 W
----- 053987

P R 141530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5108

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS VIENNA 2247

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC (USSS)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN GOLD COINS

PASS TREASURY

REF: STATE 050145

IN REPLY TO EMBASSY INQUIRY ON REFERENCED SUBJECT: AUSTRAIN
FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL DR. HANS HELLER HAS SENT LETTER
TO EMBASSY DATED MARCH 13, 1975, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS
IN FREE TRANSLATION:

QUOTE: THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA HAS NO GOLD CURRENCY.
THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ISSUE GOLD COINS AS
CIRCULATING MEDIUM.

DUE TO DEMAND ON INTERNATIONAL GOLD MARKETS FOR OLD AUSTRIAN
GOLD COINS, THE FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTRY WAS AUTHORIZED
FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER FEDERAL LAW OF JANUARY 31, 1951,
FEDERAL LAW GAZETTE NO. 71/51, AND SUBSEQUENTLY UNDER THE
LAW ON GOLD COINS (GOLDMUEENZENGESTZ) STILL IN EFFECT,
FEDERAL LAW GAZETTE NO. 133/64, TO HAVE CERTAIN HISTORICAL
GOLD COINS MINTED AS COMMERCIAL GOLD COINS. ACCORDING TO
PARAGRAPH 1, SUB-PARA 2 OF THE CITED LAW, THE LATTER COINS
ARE NOT LEGAL TENDER AND ARE TO BE CONSIDERED DEMONETIZED.
THIS APPLIES TO GOLD DUCATS; GOLD COINS DENOMINATED IN 4
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 VIENNA 02247 141647Z

AND 8 FLORINS (GULDEN); AS WELL AS GOLD COINS DENOMINATED

IN 10, 20 AND 100 CROWNS (KRONEN).

THE FEATURES OF THESE COINS ARE STIPULATED BY LAW, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S MINT MONOPOLY AS WELL AS THE DEFINITION "GOLD COIN" ARE PROTECTED BY PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF THE CITED LAW.

GOLD COINS DENOMINATED IN 25 SCHILLINGS AND 100 SCHILLINGS, MINTED ON THE BASIS OF PARAGRAPH 9, SUB-PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE SCHILLING LAW (SCHILLINGRECHNUNGSGESETZ), FEDERAL LAW GAZETTE NO. 461/1924, HAVE LOST THEIR LEGAL TENDER CHARACTER AND WERE WITHDRAWN PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE FROM MAY 25, 1938, GERMAN LAW GAZETTE NO. 1 PAGE 601.

THUS, THERE EXISTS NO OBLIGATION FOR THE AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK TO REDEEM EITHER THE LATTER TWO TYPES OF COINS NOR GOLD COINS ELIGIBLE UNDER THE LAW ON GOLD COINS. UNQUOTE MOWINCKEL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA02247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750090-0270
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750348/aaaabqrf.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION USSS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 050145
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN GOLD COINS PASS TREASURY
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006